

**ALLIES MUST PAY  
TEN BILLION DEBT,  
HOUSTON INSISTS****Secretary of Treasury Protests  
Against Attempts to  
Cancel War Obligations.****DROP EXCESS PROFIT TAX.  
ANNUAL REPORT ADVISES****Urges Revision of Levies So  
Burden Will Fall on Those  
Able to Bear It.****ASKS \$1,000,000,000 A YEAR****Lesser Sum Would Be Incomparable  
With Safety and Sound  
Finance, He Thinks.**

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—The secretary of the treasury, David Franklin Houston, today protested against attempts to cancel war obligations. He insisted that the allies must pay a ten billion dollar debt. He also urged a revision of the excess profit tax so that the burden would fall on those able to bear it. In his annual report, Mr. Houston recommends that the government should bear interest at least equal to the interest rate on bonds of the United States, but suggests that Congress give him authority, for the present, to grant extensions on the payment of such interest.

Mr. Houston told Congress that this solution of the problem, which he set forth in detail, was the most practical one open to the United States government under the existing law. Secretary Houston stated that he had received the "famous" attempt of individuals to have the debt canceled, on the score that it would promote greater harmony. He likewise expressed concern for those who assert that if Europe pays America in commodities it will ruin American trade and disrupt domestic commerce.

**Calls Securities Sound.**  
These government loans to the allies are made on mortgage security. Mr. Houston declared, with ample guarantees of the borrowing governments, all obligations bearing interest at the rate of 5 percent, and that, despite the fact that this government is now paying the interest for a three-year period, this aggregate interest charge eventually will be paid by the principal due the United States government. Thus, it is figured that at the end of the three-year, deferred interest period, the total foreign debt will have been increased to \$1,200,000,000.

Secretary Houston turned a deaf ear to pleas made both at home and abroad for cancellation of the debt. He said:  
"This is a favorite plan of some Europeans and some Americans. At one time it is based upon sentiment or generosity. By some it is based on the contention that it will promote peace."  
Reforms in tax levies that will better distribute the tax burden, but not reduce government revenues, were recommended. This revised tax program, Mr. Houston said, is based on the principle of taxing the ability to pay in tax-free securities, or in overcapitalized corporations. He proposes to equalize the tax burden of partnerships, through a more severe application of tax penalties upon the wealthy, who cloak their profits in "stock dividends," which are nontaxable.

**Hits Excess Profits Heavy.**  
Repeal of the excess profits taxes, readjustment of surtaxes, and the adoption of some form of sales or "consumption" taxes upon certain luxuries were the most urgent needs, the secretary said.  
Such revision as is made, he said, must be made to keep the level of government revenues up to at least \$4,000,000,000 through the fiscal year 1923 and possibly a longer period. The secretary termed the "reduction of taxes" as an utter impossibility, not compatible with national security. He intimated that present scales of taxes may not even be sufficient to meet the demands of the future. Of this he said:  
"Any scheme which would yield for several years to come less than \$4,000,000,000 a year would be incompatible with safety and sound finance, and the country should face the fact that present taxes even may not in the future be relied upon to yield the needed revenue."

Congress must seek new sources of tax revenue for the next two years, in order properly to protect the treasury, Secretary Houston said, and to replace losses which may come from the revisions recommended. He urged that part of the burden must be borne by "wasteful, but non-taxpaying classes" through luxury taxes. He opposes general sales taxes upon necessities.  
About \$2,000,000,000 of the tax burden will be shifted from the shoulders of those least able to bear it, is contemplated as the most beneficial effect to the average consumer. Although the aggregate tax load will fall less heavily upon the wage-earning public, in the secretary's opinion, the burden will be shifted.

The three main tax proposals outlined and the remedies suggested in detail by Secretary Houston to the Congress were:  
1. Excess profits tax should be replaced in large part by some form of corporation profit tax. This is based upon government needs and upon grounds of equality.  
"So long as taxpayers, other than

(Continued on Page Ten.)  
Comfort and economy. York River Line, Baltimore, daily ex. Sun.—Adv.

**Highwayman Offers \$10  
to Penniless "Victim"**

[By Associated Press.]  
STEUBENVILLE, OHIO, Dec. 8.—Daniel Cable, a pottery worker, reported to the police here last night that a robber had leaped upon him, overpowered him and rifled his pockets. Finding no money, Cable said, the highwayman reached into his own pocket, pulled out a roll of bills and offered to give him \$10, saying: "Here, do it. Cable said he was too surprised to accept the money."

**COTTON TO OCCUPY  
ONLY ONE-THIRD OF  
TILLABLE SOIL 1921****Bankers and Merchants  
Will Not Aid Farmers  
Refusing Pledge.****FINANCIERS WILL HAVE  
WORK OF ORGANIZATION****Mass-Meetings Not Later Than  
January 15 Will Be Called to  
Enforce Reduction.**

[By Associated Press.]  
MEMPHIS, TENN., Dec. 8.—A 50 per cent cut in production in 1921 and curtailment in the acreage planted in cotton to one-third that of the total area in cultivation, was agreed upon at the acreage reduction conference here today. Southern bankers, merchants and farmers, and to make the plant effect of machinery was set in motion to restrict wherever necessary credits to individual farmers, merchants, factors or banks unwilling to agree to the acreage reduction plan.

The plan embodied in the report of the acreage reduction committee was adopted by practically a unanimous vote by the conference late today. It includes the formation of an organization in every township in the cotton States to secure the support of the growers and their adherence to the acreage reduction.

**Call on Bankers and Merchants.**  
The resolutions call on the bankers and credit merchants in the cotton States "to use their utmost endeavor to bring about the enforcement of a cotton acreage reduction by refusing to advance any money to any one interested in farming of any kind who does not plant enough food and feed crops for their own use."

Land owners are asked to share in whatever crops may be raised on his lands on a percentage basis, and not require any fixed sum of money or pounds of cotton for rent.

A system of bonded warehouses for cotton and a classification of cotton that will be ample to protect it from weather damage and make it a safe collateral on which to borrow money was endorsed.

A system of co-operative marketing of cotton was favored and the work of the American Cotton Association in effort to stabilize the price of cotton to bring about a reduction of acreage, improved marketing methods and in educational campaign for diversification of crops, was approved.

In additional resolutions offered from the floor and adopted, the conference gave its endorsement to "all safe, sound plans looking for the extension of long credit to foreign customers of certain export corporations to a bill in process of forming. And to a bill which will provide for a government census of all cotton-producing cotton held in the United States."

**Left to State Bankers.**  
The organization work, in its preliminary stages, is left to the various State bankers' associations. The presidents of these associations are asked to appoint a State central committee of three bankers, who shall

(Continued on Second Page.)

**SNOW AND SLEET GIVE  
DANVILLE A SUDDEN  
VISITATION OF WINTER****Ground Covered by Mixture  
at Dusk Yesterday After  
Damp, Dismal Day.**

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
DANVILLE, VA., Dec. 8.—A ceaseless rain, which began early this morning, turned into the first snow and sleet storm of the season at dusk this evening. The ground is covered with the sleety mixture.

**SUGAR TAKES NEW PLUNGE**  
Centrifugal Reaches the Lowest Price of the Season.

[By Associated Press.]  
NEW YORK, Dec. 8.—The sugar market continued its downward trend today, with centrifugal quoted at 5.32 per pound, the lowest price of the season.

**MORGAN'S ESTATE  
IS VALUED AT TWO  
MILLION DOLLARS****Appraisal Made of Personal Property Left by  
Local Manufacturer.****WIDOW AND 3 CHILDREN  
INHERIT LARGE ESTATE****Because He Left No Will, Wife  
Will Receive Only Third  
of Amount.**

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
NEW YORK, Dec. 8.—Personal property valued at \$2,500,000 was left by the late Samuel T. Morgan, of Richmond, Va., who died while on a trip to the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company, on April 15, last, according to an appraisal of his estate filed here today in Surrogate's Court. Mr. Morgan, 45, was a local manufacturer.

The property listed in the appraisal follows:  
Cash with the Southern Cotton Oil Company, of New York, \$6,271.31; cash with Henry Heitz and Company, of New York, \$3,508.94; 29 shares of the Texas and Pacific Railroad Company, 1st preferred, \$1,775.50; 19.51 shares of the same company, 2d preferred, \$1,264.42; 159 shares of the same company, common, \$660; 2,600 shares of Simms Petroleum, value not given; and 2,600 shares of the Texas and Pacific Railroad Company, value not given.

Six thousand shares of the Texas Gulf Sulphur, value not given; 35 shares of C. B. Hayward Company, Inc. preferred, and 17 shares of the same company, common, value not given; 33 shares of Industrial Products Company, 1st preferred, 70 shares of the same company, 2d preferred, and 451.33 shares of the same company, common, value not given; 12 shares of New Process Chemical Company, preferred, and 13 shares of the same company, common, value not given; and 40 shares of United States Lloyds, value not given.

Eighty-six shares of the Bankers Trust Company, \$32,110; 187 shares of Merchants and Metals National Bank, \$25,819; 140 shares of the Equitable Trust Company, \$12,400; 100 shares of the New York Produce Exchange, \$27,600; 200 shares of Air Line Company, common, \$5,600; 40 shares of the same company, preferred, \$1,600; 50 shares of the Knickerbocker Pool and Ciment Company, preferred, \$3,000; 216 shares of the same company, common, \$248; 156 shares of the Guaranty Trust Company, \$55,119; 20 shares of the Merchants Fire Insurance Company, of New York, \$2,100; and 58 shares of the same company, \$250.

Just how much real estate the decedent left, or what the expenses are, such as the funeral, administration, executor's and attorney's commissions, as charged up against the estate, the papers on file with the exception of a few creditors, do not disclose.

**Creditors of Estate.**  
Some of the creditors of the estate, according to the appraisal papers, amounting to \$273,375.66, are:  
The Merchants National Bank, of Richmond, \$25,000; Hallgarten and Company, of New York City, \$127,129.51; Thomas Branch and Company, of Richmond, \$115,744.71; Sharp and McVicker, of New York City, \$28,201.67; Newburger, Henderson and Loeb, of New York City, \$3,317.45; Thomas Branch and Company, of Richmond, special account, \$5,570.01; Scott and Strickland, of Richmond, \$55,755.05; Hobson, Massie and Leigh, of Richmond, \$4,945.42; and Hallgarten and Company, of New York City, special account, \$5,570.44.

Because of his failure to leave a will, one-third of his personal property passes over to his widow, Sally F. Morgan, of Richmond. The remaining two-thirds equally between his three children, Samuel T. Morgan, Jr., Maude B. Cabell, both of Richmond, and Blanche M. Reynolds, of Charlotte, N. C.

The widow and son, together with the Virginia Trust Company, of Richmond, are the administrators of the estate, having been appointed such by the Chancery Court of Richmond.

**NORFOLK AND WESTERN  
B. R. T. TAKE STRIKE VOTE****Follows Demand for Increased Pay,  
2,500 Men Are  
Involved.**

[By Associated Press.]  
ROANOKE, VA., Dec. 8.—A strike vote is being taken by members of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen on the Norfolk and Western Railway system, which according to S. D. Baker, president of the railroad, followed a demand for increased pay. About 2,500 men are involved.

**Governor Cox Offers to Name  
F. B. Willis for Harding's Seat**

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
COLUMBUS, OHIO, Dec. 8.—Governor James M. Cox, unsuccessful presidential candidate, today sent a telegram to President-Elect Harding offering to appoint United States Senator-elect Frank B. Willis, Delaware, Ohio, to succeed Mr. Harding in the Senate immediately, if Mr. Harding so desires.

Governor Cox's telegram to President-Elect Harding follows: "I read in the newspapers your intention to resign from the Senate on January 10 or 11, at which time, so you announce, the new Governor will appoint Senator-elect Willis. I have no doubt that

**PLAN FOR REVIVING WAR  
FINANCE BODY UP FRIDAY****Flood of Bills to Relieve Farmers  
Continue to Pour Into  
House Hopper.****WOULD PROHIBIT FUTURES**  
Alleged Representative of German Government Asks for Credit of Billion Dollars—Is Told Congress May Not Grant It.

[By Associated Press.]  
WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—Proponents of legislation to revive the War Finance Corporation and thereby afford relief to farmers confronted by falling prices, plan to call up their measure in the Senate Friday and ask for its immediate passage. Senator Gronna, Republican, North Dakota, is expected to introduce the bill.

Supporters of the proposed legislation said they had received assurances that Senate leaders would not oppose the measure, which can be brought before the Senate by a unanimous consent or by majority vote.

**Being Temporarily Postponed.**  
While farm relief legislation was being temporarily postponed in the Senate, the flood of bills to extend relief to the farmer continued in the House. Among various measures, was a bill by Representative Strong, Republican, of Kansas, to direct the committee on banking and currency to investigate what legislation would be necessary to permit the "proper financing" of farmers and stock raisers.

Representative Lee, Democrat, of Georgia, put in a bill authorizing the Federal Reserve Board to take action necessary to extend liberal credits to cotton farmers while Representative Baer, Republican, North Dakota, reintroduced his measure which would prohibit gambling in foodstuffs and speculation in stocks and bonds. Representative Caraway, Democrat, of Arkansas, offered a bill to prevent the sale of cotton and grain in future markets.

**Preparations Are Resumed.**  
Printing of testimony taken in hearings before the agricultural committee was ordered rushed to completion today so as to be in the hands of Senators when the measure comes up. The committee resumed its preparations with a view to framing agricultural relief measures and was told by Virginia and North Carolina tobacco growers that they were in the same plight as the other agricultural interests.

W. W. Brauer, another witness who claimed to represent the German government, urged the extension of a billion dollars credit to Germany for the purchase of foodstuffs and raw materials from America. Members of the committee, however, told Mr. Brauer they did not believe Congress would vote such extension of credit to Germany and he then suggested that it might be arranged through the War Finance Corporation.

**ONE DEAD, ANOTHER DYING,  
FROM MAGAZINE EXPLOSION****Osage Torpedo Company's Plant Near  
Tulsa, Okla., Blows Up Yesterday.**

[By Associated Press.]  
TULSA, OKLA., Dec. 8.—One man is dead, another reported to be dying and another seriously injured as a result of an explosion of a magazine at the Osage Torpedo Company's plant eight miles south of Pawhuska today, according to reports received here.

The explosion rocked every building in Pawhuska. Doctors and nurses have been sent to the scene of the accident.

**TUCKER FORCES ORGANIZED  
TO COMBAT ANY OPPOSITION****Only Possibilities of Others Entering Gubernatorial  
Race Are G. Walter Mapp, of Accomac, or State  
Senator E. Lee Trinkle, of Wythe.**

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
NORFOLK, VA., Dec. 8.—While not investigating any opposition in his aspirations for the governorship, Harry S. George Tucker, of Lexington, today stated that he is fully prepared and organized to meet any contestant for gubernatorial honors who may enter the field between now and the primary. His campaign is organized in every county, except two, he declared, and organization work is now under way in them. All sections are in close contact with his headquarters in Richmond.

**HEARTY WELCOME  
AWAITS NEW CHIEF  
OF C. & O. RAILROAD****William J. Harahan Will  
Establish His Headquarters  
Here Today.****CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
WILL GIVE CO-OPERATION****Many Prominent Business Men  
Express Pleasure at Return  
to City.**

The headquarters of President William J. Harahan, of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company, will be established in the general offices of the company in the First National Bank Building, it was announced yesterday. Mr. Harahan is expected here today when he will install himself in his new quarters.

It was stated last night that a special committee from the Traffic Department of the Chamber of Commerce would extend to Mr. Harahan a hearty welcome to the city. This committee will offer its services to the new president in any way which may tend toward strengthening his administration.

Mr. Harahan said yesterday: "I greatly admire the organization my predecessor has built up, and it is my intention to keep it intact."

**Grundy Praised Harahan.**  
The committee probably will call upon Mr. Harahan at the Jefferson Hotel, where he has engaged an apartment for the present.

"Mr. Harahan is a friend of the people of Richmond. He has lived here, they know him and he knows them and a warm friendship has existed for many years. The city should rise en masse to greet him," said Colonel Barton H. Grundy this afternoon. "The directors of the C. and O. could not have elected a more able or worthy man to the honor of presidency. He is a brilliant governor of operation and an executive of superior talent, a man versed in every phase of railroad work and an official in whom Richmond may place the utmost reliance for co-operative service."

"Since he lived here, something more than a year ago, Mr. Harahan has often expressed a desire to return and make this city his home," continued Colonel Grundy. "He will give his active interest and genius not only to the C. and O., but to Richmond. The development of the city and expansion of its commerce will be his concern."

**Going to Get Freedom.**  
"We are going to get our freedom," he continued. "That, every Irishman knows, you cannot keep in continual slavery. We are everyone of whom is ready to die for his country."

Miss MacSwiney said that the British courts "sat behind barred windows and sand bags surrounded by a regiment of soldiers, waiting for cases which never come." The Irish republicans she said, turn their controversies over to their own courts, sitting in secret and abide by their decisions without further litigation.

**France Erin's Best Friend.**  
She added that as was the case with America's early struggles, France was looked upon as the best friend of the Irish freedom movement.

Miss MacSwiney told the commission that she strongly protested "against the insinuations that my fellow republicans in Ireland did anything to secure the aid of the Central Powers" during the war.

**STRONG GALE AT NORFOLK  
IS CAUSING UNEASINESS****High Tides at Ocean View Make  
People Stand By to Evacuate  
if Danger Arises.**

[By Associated Press.]  
NORFOLK, VA., Dec. 8.—A strong northeast gale caused unusually high tides at Norfolk, Ocean View and Willoughby Beach tonight. The water at Ocean View was within a few feet of the porches of a number of cottages, and inmates were ready to leave if conditions became dangerous.

Some parts of Norfolk were without illumination tonight, when the storm put a number of powerhouse circuits out of commission.

**Navy Compasses Looted  
As Alcohol Fountains**

[By Associated Press.]  
WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—Many repairs to navy compasses have been made necessary during the past year by reason of the fact that the instruments have been broken open for the alcohol they contained, says the annual report of Rear Admiral J. A. Hoozever, superintendent of the naval observatory, to Secretary Daniels, made public today.

**When Rat Invented Party,  
3 Women Wreck Auto**

[By Associated Press.]  
LEESBURG, GA., Dec. 8.—Three persons were injured in an automobile accident here today when a rat was discovered in the car which was being driven by Mrs. Thomas W. Love, wife of a well-known business man.

Two other women were in the car with Mrs. Love. One of them discovered the rat, which leaped to Mrs. Love's shoulder, causing her to lose control of the machine.

None of the women was seriously injured.

**HARDING PLANNING  
SECOND SOUTHERN  
JAUNT IN JANUARY****President-Elect Undecided  
When He Will Relinquish  
Seat in Senate.****HARDING SILENT ON  
GOVERNOR'S OFFER****Republican Chief Will Soon  
Take Up Program of Taxation  
Legislation.**

[By Associated Press.]  
MARION, OHIO, Dec. 8.—After a month's vacation trip to Texas and Panama, President-Elect Harding returned to Marion today to lay the foundation of his administration and its policies in consultation with many of the leading statesmen.

The President-elect and Mrs. Harding may move to some Southern resort some time during January, but they expect to be in Marion until after the holidays.

Within this period Mr. Harding expects to conclude the league of nations conference and to gather much important data on domestic questions.

**Resignation Not Settled.**  
Senator Harding had not decided tonight whether he would resign from the Senate sooner than he had planned upon Governor Cox's promise to appoint Frank E. Willis, a Republican, to succeed him. During the day he tried to get into telephonic communication with Mr. Willis, but was unable to do so because of the serious illness of the latter's father.

The President-elect's decision may be based upon Mr. Willis' wish.

"The meeting of minds" he promised during the campaign will begin early next week, after he has disposed of accumulated correspondence, and has put into more concrete form the ideas he has in mind.

Mr. Harding has declared that as soon as there are urgent questions to be decided in the nation's domestic affairs, and to these he will give attention in some of his conferences here. For one thing, he has advocated a reorganization of several departments to insure greater business efficiency, and he is expected before March 4 to discuss that subject with some of the country's most successful business executives.

Meantime, he must, too, frame the taxation program he will recommend to the extra session of Congress, to be held in March.

**THREE BABES PLAY IN  
DEATH HOUSE AS WIFE  
BIDS SLAYER GOOD-BY****Stern Sing Sing Keepers Are  
Moved as Little Ones  
Prattle to "Daddy."**

[By United News.]  
OSSING, N. Y., Dec. 8.—Three little children, the oldest 4 years, the youngest 15 months, played about the floor of the death house in Sing Sing this afternoon, while their young mother fought with despair and grief in a farewell interview with their father, Howard Baker, heartbroken mother there have been many in the death house—and wives and sisters. But the babbling of babies to their "daddy," who is to die tomorrow night, was almost too much for the sternest of keepers.

Mrs. Baker arrived from Albany where she had tried in vain to make a personal appeal to Governor Smith for a commutation of the death sentence. In the morning she will see him again for the last time unless the governor relents.

Four other men are to go to the electric chair at the same time unless the courts or the Governor intercedes. Warden Lawes has completed arrangements and issued the official invitations. James E. Cassidy, Joseph Milano, Charles McLaughlin and Joseph Ueser are condemned to die for murdering Otto Fiolo, a subway ticket agent.

**CONGRESS TO HOLD  
HEARINGS TO ALTER  
TAXES AND TARIFF****Republicans Take First  
Step in Legislative Program  
of Next Term.****HOUSTON TO BE INVITED  
TO GO BEFORE COMMITTEE****Forney Says Secretary of  
Treasury Too High in Estimate  
for Appropriations.****HITS BUREAU OF WAR RISK**  
Chairman of Ways and Means Committee Asserts He Can Trim Big Sum From Treasury Estimate.

[By Associated Press.]  
WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—Republican members of Congress took the first step today toward revision of tax and tariff laws at the present session to be called soon after next March 4.

Chairman Forney, of the House Ways and Means Committee, announced that his committee would begin hearings within a few days on revision of the tax laws, these hearings to continue until January 6, when hearings will be started on tariff legislation. Almost simultaneously with Chairman Forney's announcement, Senator McCumber, of North Dakota, acting chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, issued a call for a meeting of the committee for tomorrow, when plans will be made for hearings similar to those contemplated by the House committee.

The Senate and House committees alike hope to conclude their hearings by the end of the present session. The House committee, Chairman Forney said, expects to be able to begin the work of drafting the new tax and tariff measures as soon as the extra session is convened. The Senate committee's hearings are expected to be briefer than those planned by the House committee.

**Invite Houston to Appear.**  
Chairman Forney's announcement followed a conference of the majority members of the committee. He said that as soon as the committee has had time to study the tax recommendations contained in the annual report of Secretary Houston of the Treasury sent to Congress today, he would invite Mr. Houston to appear before the committee and explain his views more fully. The Treasury secretary will be asked to designate an official to represent him at the committee's sessions. The committee's program, the chairman said, will be announced from day to day as the hearings proceed.

Chairman Forney said today that he had in mind a definite plan for simplification of the tax on corporation incomes. One of his proposals is a flat tax on the incomes of all corporations "having no qualifications or other modifying provisions."

Mr. Forney also said it was his desire "that the income tax laws be made so simple that a corporation will not have to hire an expert or a lawyer to figure how much it owes the government."

**Too Much for War Risk.**  
The list of estimates of the secretary and estimates of approximately \$1,250,000,000 as unnecessary," Mr. Forney said. "Just for example, he wants \$181,000,000 for the War Risk Insurance Bureau or more too high."

"With the proposed consolidation of the various soldier relief agencies into one bureau we can save \$100,000,000 and eliminate 35,000 clerks in Washington. The secretary wants \$5,000,000 for rivers and harbors improvement. I do not think Congress will grant any such sum this year."

The first legislative action of the House at this session was taken today with the passage of a bill authorizing the award of medals of honor for distinguished service performed during the world war by officers and men of the United States merchant marine. The vote was 215 to 7.

The House passed as its second piece of legislation a bill by Representative Hargrave, of Iowa, chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, designed principally to prevent deception of the public in the purchase of manufactured articles wrapped or boxed so as to make them appear of greater size or quantity than the contents are in fact.

The bill as passed would require that the quantity of the contents be plainly marked on the outside of the package in terms of weight, measure or numerical count.

**Killed Leaving Cork Church.**  
LONDON, Dec. 8.—A brief dispatch received from Cork last night stated there was a general hold-up of the public in the streets of Cork by the auxiliary police this evening. Firing was heard in various parts of the city. A man leaving a church was shot dead. There was much alarm in the streets, which were quickly deserted.

**Probe Activities of Charles Berner.**  
BERNE, Dec. 8.—The Federal authorities have instituted an inquiry into the activities of former Emperor Charles of Austria in Switzerland following the exposure of his alleged Hapsburg intrigues by the Socialist newspaper Tagblatt.